



Woburn Public Schools
Special Education Office

55 Locust Street, Woburn, MA 01801
Tel: (781) 937-8233
Fax: (781) 939-5859

May 18, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

It is hard to believe that schools have been closed for over two months now! I hope you are healthy and spending some time outside on the warmer days. As we head into the final stretch for the 2019-2020 school year I am writing to provide a special education update.

On Friday, May 15th, the Massachusetts Director of Special Education, Russell Johnston, again met with area special education directors to discuss various special education issues as they pertain to the COVID-19 closures. Dr. Johnston's update provided information pertaining to the operations of the special education departments during the closure, as well as some initiatives that the department is working on relative to our students turning three years old and transitioning from Early Intervention. We continue to wait for direction with respect to Extended School Year (ESY), although it is becoming increasingly likely that 2020 ESY will be delivered remotely. We look forward to the update later this week on these issues and will share information as it becomes available.

In Woburn, we are transitioning away from the original service boards and updating Remote Learning Plans to include an increase in "face time" with our students. Previously posted services will continue to be available on the Special Education [Extended Learning Website](#), although the format will look different as we reorganize and restructure. Our Speech and Language Therapists have completed the credentialing process and have begun to deliver teletherapy. Many virtual team meetings have taken place, and we continue to schedule meetings for our students, prioritizing transition meetings for students who will be changing buildings or programs next year. We have begun sending out several surveys to assist with planning for assessments that could not be completed due to the closure, as well as planning for remote ESY participation. Additionally, formal registration for neighborhood peers in our Early Childhood Program has begun and can be accessed on our [website](#).

Over the past week many of our staff were able to access comprehensive training on Social Thinking, given by the acclaimed CEO and founder of Social Thinking®. In addition, all of our special education staff began a 5 week live series provided by an expert in IEP development to help further enhance our Special Education processes. We are dedicating significant effort to be more consistent in our practices across the district by sharpening our skills with writing comprehensive and data-driven IEPs.

The Special Education Office continues to be very busy, but as always, please reach out with questions or concerns.

Warmly,

Maureen E. Ryan

Maureen E. Ryan, M.Ed.

Director of Special Education